

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 were rejected and claims 2 and 4 were objected to as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Review and reconsideration on the merits are requested.

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,800,330 to Hayashi et al. The Examiner cited Hayashi et al. as disclosing a coating composition for producing silica-based films substantially as claimed, comprising silicon compounds, solvent and polyoxyalkylene.

In response, claim 1 has been amended to delete “polyalkyleneoxide structure” from among the members represented by (C). That is, the coating composition of amended claim 1 comprises a hydrolyzate and/or partially condensed product (A), (B) a solvent for coating, and (C) at least one selected from the group consisting of a void-forming solvent (allowable claim 2) and hollow polymer fine particles (allowable claim 4). Claim 3 has been canceled. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to depend from any of claims 1, 2 and 4.

Claims 2 and 4 have been amended to employ the art-recognized open-ended language “comprises” with respect to the void-forming solvent or hollow polymer fine particles of component (C).

Additionally, claim 1 has been amended to recite that $1 \leq n + m \leq 3$. Notably, because n is an integer ranging from 0 to 2 and m is an integer ranging from 1 to 3, n + m can never be 0. No new matter has been added.

Entry of the amendments, withdrawal of the foregoing rejection and allowance of claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 is earnestly solicited.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/811,872

Attorney Docket No.: Q80665

In the event that the Examiner believes that it may be helpful to advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number indicated below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. Respectfully submitted,



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